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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE:

COUNTRY Greece

SUBJECT An Andarte's Views on Amnesties

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ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

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SUMMARY OF CONTENT

SOURCE

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On or about 19 June 1947 an Andarte, who had escaped from the Greek III Army Corps' movement encircling Mount Olympus, arrived in Salonika to seek assistance in extricating himself from the Communist guerrilla movement. The following is an exact translation of the Andarte's statements:

1. Fifty per cent of the bands consist of boys 17 years and over who have been recruited by force. Thirty per cent are former ELAS men, among whom I am included. We went to the mountains to offer our services because of our actual feelings. Unluckily we are now enmeshed and we cannot escape. Ten percent are real Communists who, as we have finally realized, are cooperating with foreign elements. The other ten per cent consist of all kinds of men--convicts, fugitives from justice, etc.
2. The desire of eighty per cent is to return to their families and find the work by which to live. When, however, their chieftains foresee that there is a chance of their surrendering, they are executed in front of the others in the most terrifying manner. This, as well as the fact that they are not permitted to know about the (amnesty) posters and the newspapers, makes them submit. Furthermore they are afraid of the Gendarmerie if they surrender, because they are convinced that at least fifty per cent, if not more, of the Andartes who surrender are executed by the gendarmes.
3. A neutral commission should be established, to which it would be possible for the Andartes to surrender. But this will be helpful only under certain conditions. If we of the mountain surrender, life in our villages will be unbearable, because great and small in our villages have become our enemies, and it will be impossible for us to live in our villages for some time. Therefore the following conditions must be observed:
 - a. We must be located somewhere else for one or two months in order to rest, to eat, and to be clothed, and to recover from the great hardships which we have suffered.

CLASSIFICATION

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- b. For at least six months work must be given us far away from our villages, so that in the meantime some of their suffering may be forgotten.
- c. The Government must stop its persecution of democrats.
- d. The Government must remove the Kapetanei of the Right (note: reference is to the rightist paramilitary bands) who exercise no self-restraint.
- e. The Government must render real justice rather than exercise a party prodigality.

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